

settlement, of course, was at Heber City, but there were also two small settlements along the Snake Creek, a number of families at Center Creek, some at Charleston, some in Round Valley or Wallsburg, a small cluster of houses at the Sessions spring and a few at a sheep ranch of Melvin Ross, afterwards known as Hailstone's Ranch, about eight miles north of Heber.

The first county road was established on March 3, 1862, and commenced at the Provo River below Manning's (southwest of the town of Charleston) and ran in a northerly direction following the old immigrant trail through the valley, passing by Melvin Ross' ranch and terminating at the northern boundary of the county known then as the Ross Summit.

Another county road was established April 26, 1862 and ran between Heber City and Center Creek and on to a sawmill in Center Creek Canyon.

Four school districts were also designated in April, 1862. They were district No. 1 to include Heber City; No. 2 at the Center Creek settlement; No. 3, the lower settlement on Snake Creek and No. 4 the upper Snake Creek settlement.

The first valuation of property for the county took place in 1862, and according to the report of John Harvey, assessor and collector, the property value in the valley was \$48,350.

Spring came late in 1862 and it was May 4 before any plowing could be done in the valley. The Church leaders who went to Salt Lake City for general conference sessions in April had to travel on snowshoes to get through the more than four feet of snow still on the ground.

Early in 1862 John H. Van Wagoner finished building a gristmill at Snake Creek's lower settlement. Even though there was no way to separate the smut from the wheat and some of the flour made was very dark, the people were still glad for this added improvement. At times that year the river was so high people couldn't get across to the mill. However, Henry McMullin, a ship builder from Maine, built a boat and the grist was taken back and forth on the boat. It was this same Mr. McMullin that built the first sawmill in the valley. It was owned by William M. Wall and James Adams and located in Center Creek Canyon.

Until the sawmill was built, people had used hand-prepared timber for all their furniture and other needs. Now, with cut lumber available the rough furniture was quickly discarded.

Many of the people were able to obtain good wagons from the soldiers in Johnston's Army. The army had camped near Utah Lake until the outbreak of the Civil War in the East. They were summoned to return to the Northern Army's camps and so they sold some of their wagons and their supplies very cheaply rather than carry them back east. Many in Wasatch County obtained the wagons as the troops passed through the valley on their eastern trip.

cut lumber  
1st used  
1862?

P 18  
(bottom)

copy & file in  
lumber  
home  
section  
of Bldg  
Survey  
book

July  
1861



This rare picture shows the tedious method of logging employed in the Strawberry Valley during its early development.

He and others convinced the Bureau of Reclamation of the value of the project and aided in the Bureau's purchase of some 56,000 acres of choice range and grazing country from out of the Indian reservation.

The dam and reservoir were completed by the Bureau of Reclamation in 1912. There are some 8,600 acres under water and about 45,500 acres in the area used for range lands. A unique feature of the project is a four-mile-long tunnel that provides the outlet from the bottom of the lake. The tunnel is at the opposite end of the lake from the dam and takes the water from the Colorado Drainage system to the Salt Lake Drainage system. At one point the tunnel is 1,700 feet under the mountains. Water from the reservoir is used for irrigation in the south end of Utah Valley.

From the beginning the reservoir proved to be a popular fishing and resort area. Boating became popular, both for fishing in the deep waters and for sport. Some of the largest native and rainbow trout ever caught in the state have come from Strawberry Lake. Many deer are brought out of the mountains that surround the lake each hunting season.

At its peak there are some 500 private cabins and four commercial fishing camps on the shores of the lake. As many as 1,500 boats have been on the lake at one time.

The first commercial resort and camp was operated by Charles. Jim and George A. Madsen. Later, George A. Madsen and his wife Nettie, established their own camp and made it famous for excellent food.